



# Tapu'itea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Wednesday  
July 12,  
2006

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Vol. I, No. 16

## Governor Togiola addresses the Opening of the Final Session of the 29<sup>th</sup> Legislature

**(UTULEI)** – Governor Togiola Tulafono addressed the opening ceremony of the final session of the 29<sup>th</sup> Legislature at the Fono Guest Fale in Fagatogo, on Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Governor Togiola, in a joint session of the Fono, addressed issues such as the proposed Bond Bill, Optic Fiber Cable connection, and the 2007 Budget.

The following is the official address from Governor Togiola:

“I wish to thank you for the opportunity to address this Fourth Session of the 29<sup>th</sup> Legislature. As you know, the road has not always been smooth during this sitting of the Legislature, but despite this, you and I, when required and needed, stood together on behalf of our government and the people of American Samoa. We have managed some daunting obstacles in this time.

Together, we were able to keep our islands competitive in enticing the commercial fishing fleet to our shores with the Diesel Tax Credit Act.

We were also able to fund and institute a four percent increase in wages, as a cost of living hike, for all government employees making less than \$40,000.

This sitting of the Legislature also bore witness to new moneys for scholarships specifically for teachers. It is great news of the increase of teachers receiving their Masters and Bachelors degrees, with the ultimate goal of all primary school principals possessing a Masters degree.

We were able to provide relief to the American Samoa Medical Center Authority to the tune of \$10 million dollars.

We have helped our private financial institutions to improve lending predictability to increase their capability to make emergency, short term small loans in the Territory.

We have paid homage to the sacrifice of all veterans in and from the Territory and the United States in our Veterans Memorial Bill, which provided seed money for the establishment of a Veterans Memorial in the Territory.

And we have begun a serious and comprehensive look at our political status as a Territory through the realization of the Political Status Study Commission.

These are but only a few of the accomplishments during this Legislature, and I thank you earnestly for your dedication and commitment

It has always been the aim of this Administration since the first day in office to carry through with our promise of “bridging the gap.” To begin bringing resolution to those issues and concerns that have created divides among our people, among competing schools of political thought in our government and among competing interests over the development of our economy.

For a long time, American Samoa has had to make due on the same amount of critical infrastructure money from the Department of Interior. While this money is greatly appreciated and has been put to good use in developing our infrastructure, the needs of our Territory continue to mount.

Since 1977, there has been no increase in funding for government operation. There has been a slight increase in Capital Improvement Project funds. We are not generating enough local funds. Our dilemma continues to be: Too much funds going out and not enough in coming revenue.

It is in view of this that I proposed the Administration’s Bond Bill in the Third Session of the Legislature. And I am renewing this proposal in the current Session.

*(Continued on page 4)*

**HISTORICAL NOTES**

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

**On July 6, 1900**, the Secretary of the Navy authorized the Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila (Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley) to enlist 58 Samoans as "Landsmen" in the Navy. They soon came to be known as the "Fita Fita Guard and Band."

**On July 6, 1944**, the Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila (Captain Allen Hobbs) advised the Commander, Service Squadron, South Pacific Force that all antisubmarine nets, moorings and anti-ship booms had been removed from Pago Pago Harbor and were awaiting shipment to Pearl Harbor.

**On July 6, 2001**, the American Samoa Government dedicated the Aua Village Rural Road Project. The Guest Speaker, Governor Tauese P.F. Sunia, thanked the Department of Public Works, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration and the TWA Corporation for successfully completing the project.

**On July 7, 1904**, in his Annual Report to Secretary of the Navy Paul Morton, Commander Edmund Beardsley Underwood, Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, wrote that "During the past Fiscal Year, the Government has purchased from the owners 1.2 acres of land, making a total of 39.42 acres comprised in the Station proper. This total is exclusive of an appreciable area derived from filling in." He added that "During the year there have been built on this station a commodious office building [the Courthouse], an ice manufactory, and carpenter and blacksmith shops."

**On July 7, 1911**, the islands of Tutuila, Aunu'u and Manu'a, formerly designated as "U.S. Naval Station Tutuila," were officially designated as "American Samoa," although the actual Naval Station, in Fagatogo and Utulei, continued to be called "U.S. Naval Station Tutuila."

**On July 7, 1949**, Captain Thomas Francis Darden, Jr. took office as American Samoa's 37th (and last) naval governor (until February 23, 1951).

**On July 10, 1900**, Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley, Commandant of the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, Tui Manu'a Elisara and U.S. Navy Doctor Edward M. Blackwell raised the U.S. flag on Rose Atoll, and claimed it for the United States.

**On July 10, 1941**, the organization of the First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, began. All recruits were enlisted as privates, and were paid 70 cents a day, with a uniform allowance of \$5.00. After four months, their pay was raised to \$1.00 a day. "Special instructions from Headquarters, Marine Corps, listed these defects as not cause for disqualification for enlistment in the First Samoan Battalion: flat feet, intestinal parasites, yaws (not tertiary), defective vision (one eye must be 20/20 and the other not below 15/20), opacities (when not interfering with vision), overweight (except in marked obesity cases), filariasis (not including elephantiasis) and incipient pyorrhea."

**On July 10, 2003**, the runway at Pago Pago International Airport was re-opened to jet traffic, following an inspection by officials of the Federal Aviation Administration.

**On July 11, 1911**, the Solicitor of the Navy authorized Commander William Michael Crose, who was Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila and Governor of Tutuila, to use the designation "American Samoa." Thus, Crose was the first person to be designated as "Governor of American Samoa," rather than "Governor of Tutuila," although he, and all succeeding naval governors continued also to be designated as "Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila."

**On July 11, 1941**, the Utah Construction Company began construction of the Tafuna Air Base on Tutuila, as part of the Pacific Naval Air Bases (PNAB) Contract NOy-4173.

**On July 11, 1942**, Japan's Imperial General Headquarters cancelled the proposed capture of New Caledonia, Fiji and Samoa.

## Governor Togiola Tulafono issues statement regarding allegations against ASPA Acting CEO John Marsh

**(UTULEI)** – Governor Togiola Tulafono today issued a statement after receiving a letter from Common Cause dated July 5, 2006 that alleges impropriety by ASPA Acting CEO John Marsh.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

"I have received a letter that bears the signature of Trudie Iuli-Sala from Common Cause. I am very surprised by the allegations made against Mr. Marsh, and I find it very difficult to believe. But I have to treat these allegations like any other complaint against any employee of the government.

I am first asking Mrs. Sala to provide me the facts and information she claims she has about the allegations. At the same time, I am asking the ASPA Board if they know anything about these allegations, and if they do, what have they done, or are going to do about it. If they don't, I will ask them to look into this complaint immediately and determine any necessary actions based on their findings, and to let me know as well.

When I receive the information from Mrs. Sala, I will forward it immediately to the police for investigation and action."

## ASG RADIO PROGRAM

**With: Governor Togiola Tulafono  
Saturdays @ 7a.m.**

**On: Showers of Blessings-FM 104.7  
Call 699-8123 or 699-8124**

### Share important activities

with our ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

**Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:**

[tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as](mailto:tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as)

**Deadline for submissions is Thursday @ noon.**

contact Harry Stevens @733-1694

or

Vince Iuli @ 733-1041

## CROSSROADS THEATRE FOR YOUTH (CTY)

### Drama in the Summer, a big boost in confidence for teens

**(NU'UULI)** - Summer theatre in the classroom is part of the summer fun at Pava'ia'i Elementary School.

Intersections --the non-profit organization in Nu'uuli that administers Crossroads Theatre for Youth (CTY)-- in partnership with the Department of Education (DOE) and the American Samoa Coalition for Teen Pregnancy Prevention (ASCTPP) has created a summer program for 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> graders that combines lessons in performance with awareness of teen pregnancy.

Founder and Executive Director of Intersections, Moelili'a Seui, says that drama provides a big boost to the confidence of the students and helps them better understand social issues that affect Samoan youth.

"With the high rate of teen pregnancy in the past school year, this is a big collaboration with the Coalition and DOE using drama to deeply explore youth and health issues, particularly teen pregnancy. Music and dance always play an important role in connecting children to being Samoan," said Seui. "We had guest speakers that came in and talk about the community service role of young people or ola tautua o le tama ma le teine Samoa. The partnership is excellent and we're looking forward to another successful Theatrefest."

Most recently, CTY's inaugural Theatrefest presented a short play called "A Walk In Our Shoes" performed by its Junior Company, the teen acting group, at the Convention Center in Utulei and in an encore presentation last month at ASCC.

This summer's Theatrefest is entitled: "To be Young and Samoan." This end of the summer performance, according to Seui, will allow the young people a chance to express themselves in contemporary learning while developing a strong sense of identity as Samoan students.

The 34 students that were selected for the summer program have been learning a variety of performance styles since June 12<sup>th</sup> from the CTY staff, its Junior Company and two Pava'ia'i Elementary teachers --Kato Fuimaono and Shute Tautu-- who say they are amazed at the transformation of the often-timid students.

"In such a short time this summer I already see a big change and a big difference in our students through their participation in improvisation and movement," said Fuimaono, who teaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade History. "The big boost in confidence is so noticeable as I see them actively participate in their respective acting groups with so much passion and enthusiasm and at the same time digging deep for words and language to accurately convey their thoughts. It's truly amazing."

According to Mr. Tautu, using drama in the classroom truly is reaching out to children and the community.

"This program is a wonderful model for development of not just stage performance, but also development of clear speech, stage vocal projection, character development and mime and experimental movement," said Mr. Tautu, a Samoan Studies instructor. "So many of my students have been transformed into new students and that includes a new outlook in learning and participation, and more importantly, in paying attention and focusing on what is being taught."

Fiafia Leatimua, health educator for ASCTPP presented information about teen pregnancy and shared with the students that American Samoa rates second highest in teen pregnancy in the Pacific.

"There were 11-year old girls that gave birth in 1996 and 2003," said Mr. Leatimua. "I am glad to have the opportunity to bring awareness to young people at an early age to break the misconception that they have about teen pregnancy. They had a chance to explore how teen pregnancy affects the development of both the teenager and the baby. It was amazing to see how they took ownership of the community when they discovered the impact of teen pregnancy on the family and the community."

That transformation has come through loud and clear through the words of some of the summer program participants:

"This program helped me to understand how teen pregnancy can affect my future." -- Afiafi Faiiai, 13, Pava'ia'i

"It changed my attitude towards learning. I participate more now and keep it fun," -- Molly Asifoa, 13, Aolou

"This program has changed my life because it helped me to have the courage to speak and share my ideas and not be ashamed."

-- Sione Ma'u, 13, Pava'ia'i

"I learned a lot of movement and how to shake my body. This program has helped me to take away my shyness and face my fears.

I look

forward to facing the future," -- Jackie Te'o, 13, Faleniu

"I learned a lot about teamwork and respecting each other's ideas." -- Colleen Vou, 12, Mapusaga

CTY's off island partnership with Honolulu Theatre for Youth has Mr. Daniel A. Kelin back on island to offer more training to local theatre staff as well as the students. He says summer drama program puts an emphasis on partnership, creativity, teamwork, and high energy for all involved.

"It's a magical experience for children and staff alike because they come away with changed perspectives not only on their ability to develop theater, but also on relating to and enriching others in all areas of life, and in this case, in the classroom," said Kelin.

The summer program will end with a performance on July 25<sup>th</sup> and with the partnership of DOE and the Coalition for Teen Pregnancy, Intersections and CTY are utilizing its interactive educational plays and theatre exercises for drama therapy to guide young people through awareness of teen pregnancy.

"It's learning by doing and coordinating by collaborating for both students and staff," said Seui. "Through the process of this summer drama program they learn to translate their skills and talents into a valid invitation to the kids to fly on the wings of their collective creativity. This requires them not only to discern the abilities, limitations, strengths and fears of each child, but also to summon their own abilities and courage to take that very risk themselves."

CTY staff assisting in the summer program include Loso Iaulualo, Malaetele Tautala, Noelle Tavale-Mageo, Upulasi Tanielu, and Faimanifo Aмоса. The Junior Company personnel lending a hand are: Ruth Soli, Ku'uipo Trepanier, Daniel Saifoloi, Conan Iaulualo, Isaako Maileoi, and Roman Fetuao.

CTY is funded by the U.S. Administration for Native Americans to educate and heighten awareness of youth and social issues in our community. Financial assistance for school teachers is funded by DOE and the Junior Company work program is funded by the Coalition for Teen Pregnancy and the Department of Human Resources Workforce Investment Act.

## Governor Togiola addresses opening of Final Session of 29<sup>th</sup> Legislature

(from page 1)

### BOND BILL

Our bond debt of years past is effectively retired. Critical infrastructure needs that have been accumulating over the years are in dire need of funding. Therefore, I am proposing pursuant to the recommendation of the Finance Committee, who have reviewed worthy government projects over the past years, that ASG enter into a bond issue of \$20 million dollars in order to fund the many critical projects for the development and betterment of the government and the services that we provide.

Among these critical projects are the dredging of the harbors in Manu'a. The harbors in Ofu and Faleasao require more dredging for the safe passage of our sea vessels that are docked at these wharves.

I am aware of the concerns that have been expressed by Fono leaders that none of this money that will be made available will be used for economic development. We are all well aware of the need for funding economic development initiatives for our Territory.

This administration has been at the forefront of pushing these initiatives through various trade missions, the most successful of which, was held this past May, in partnership with the Department of Interior and our own private sector. This Island Business Opportunities Mission was only the latest step in our efforts at economic development in our Territory. A large portion of technical assistance that ASG requests from the Interior is specifically for this purpose. The need for this is made even more apparent, considering the current status of Section 936.

However, the critical infrastructure needs of the Territory continue to mount. These needs, in the form of construction of buildings and structures and the purchase of necessary machinery will improve the overall performance and increase local capacity for our government. This development will also play a role in developing our economy. Government services and capacity must develop in relation to our economy. A robust, burgeoning private sector will be endangered by a government that lacks the capacity to provide basic and essential services to support growth. It is in this spirit that I move this Legislature to pass the newly proposed Bond Bill in this Session.

It is the goal and it will continue to be the goal of this Administration to bridge the gap between where we are now as a government and where we need to be in ten years from now. This bill will go a long way toward getting us to that very point.

### BUDGET

As is your annual duty in the July Session, you will be considering the Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2007. As the result of a slow period in our revenue collections, the expenditures for this last fiscal year are projected to fall short of our revenues. We are hoping to pick up our collection efforts in the last quarter of the year, ending September 30, 2006.

We are hoping to strengthen our collections capacity at our ports of entry procedurally as well as substantively. While the drop in collections was unexpected, the trend followed very closely those years in which there were no natural disasters in the Territory, which usually leads to an influx of federal dollars to our economy.

Because of our projected shortfall, I have ordered the Budget Director to institute a five percent across-the-board reduction for the Executive Branch only. This reduction will not apply to the Judiciary, nor here to the Fono.

I have met with several members of my Cabinet in an effort to bring their operations in line with the ceilings that have been created by the five percent reduction. Only agencies that present extraordinary situations will be allowed to exceed the ceiling that has been set by the Budget Office. These are actions that must be taken. A balanced budget is critical not only to our own efforts at accountability, but also as a condition of our 'high risk' status. American Samoa must have a balanced budget for at least two consecutive budget cycles. It is my fervent hope that all of us can come together on this – not only to show ourselves that it can and will be done, but also to divest ASG of its high risk status once and for all.

I urge you all to keep this goal in mind as you consider the budget bill this session. And I implore you to observe and respect the cuts that the Administration has made to this year's budget, as we endeavor to bridge the gap between our income and expenditures.

### FIBER OPTIC CABLE

As a result of an off-island company visit earlier this year, which identified the shortcomings of the territory's telecommunications capacity, we have begun to pursue aggressively, a connection to existing undersea fiber-optic cable which would provide a broader, more substantial telecommunications capability than our current satellite based system offers. American Samoa has identified at least three different fiber-optic cable options from which the Territory may connect. Discussions have already begun with the entities that administer these cables in Fiji in order to procure a node for connection and service to American Samoa.

We cannot do this alone. We are already discussing with two companies and the Department of the Interior on how to help us perform this job and get the job done.

The Territory will likely not be able to shoulder the cost of connectivity on its own. Therefore, we are investigating and requesting federal assistance in landing fiber optic cable in the territory. Federal support, especially with regard to the high cost of connectivity is greatly needed in this endeavor.

The interest in American Samoa for businesses and applications that would utilize this connection currently exists. This connectivity would bring those interests and more to fruition for the territory. Broader bandwidth connectivity will bring a more robust and energetic aspect to our economy.

The economic potential that this may provide to the Territory is immense. However, once this link is established, this will help the bridge the information gap between our Territory and the rest of the world.

And speaking of the world, we plan on taking a business trip to China in September to promote our island home and entice tourists to visit American Samoa. Also, in preparation for the world to visit, we have launched the 2008 Pacific Arts Festival, a truly big event that we were a part of creating. And 40 years after its debut, we will finally get to host it in two years.

I thank all of you for your dedication and commitment in the service that you continue to provide at the Fono and the great work that is part of the 29<sup>th</sup> Legislature. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you these two years, and I hope that we can bring successful closure to the work we have done together.

I continue to remain committed to working with this body in your capacity as lawmakers and in our respective spheres of government. And I also remain wholeheartedly committed to bridging the gap toward a more successful, efficient and effective government for the betterment of our people.

God bless you all. And God bless American Samoa."

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